

CLASSIFICATION

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COUNTRY East Germany

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TOPIC Soviet Commissaries

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

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1. In the summer of 1952, there existed one Gross Basa each (central store) in Leipzig and Dresden. The two installations cooperated with the Konsumverband (Association of Cooperative Stores) (KVB) in Brandenburg. The KVB was comprised of a Soviet and a German section. To the latter section were assigned the so-called Zivilverwaltungen (civil agencies) (ZV), such as ZV I in Leipzig; ZV III in Potsdam. The ZVs were organized into departments. The 6th Department of ZV III was in Cottbus. The ZVs and their departments had purely administrative functions, while the supply with goods was the responsibility of the Gross Basen and Basen. The ZVs and their departments had to furnish German personnel, furniture and other pertaining inventory to the Soviet magazines. The ZVs were given 0.4 percent of the turn-over of the Soviet magazines which they served. From this money all their expenses had to be covered.
2. The Basen (stores) settled their accounts with the Gross Basa in Dresden. This Gross Basa normally delivered goods only by railroad carloads. In urgent cases the individual Soviet commissaries picked up goods in trucks. Scarc articles were distributed according to a special key. The managers of the commissaries tried to obtain the maximum possible amount of desired articles such as bicycles and sewing machines. The commissaries had also concluded contracts with German agencies and enterprises such as dairies, cooperative shops for the delivery of meat and meat products and with farms for the delivery of fruit and vegetables. The accounts for all these products had to be settled with the Basa concerned. Occasionally, the managers of Soviet commissaries also purchased goods on the free market, which was forbidden.
3. The 6th Department of ZV III at 55 Thaelmannplatz in Cottbus was headed by one Novotnik (fnu) and served the commissaries managed by Junior Lieutenant Shurunov (fnu); Captain Fizenkov (fnu), and Major Offchernikov (fnu) (phonetic spelling). Commissary Shurunov was delivered its goods from the Basa in Merder, occasionally also from the Basa in Forst-Zinna,

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and served Cottbus and Brand airfields. The commissary headed by Fizenkov whose deputy was Captain Sobolev (fnu) served the Soviet Army units in Cottbus and Weisswasser, while the commissary headed by Offchernikov served the units stationed at Finsterwalde airfield and in Finsterwalde.¹

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1.  Comment. Commissaries Shurunov and Offchernikov were known previously. They supply the bomber units in Finsterwalde and Brand with consumer goods. According to recent information, the two commissaries are to be merged.

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